Rome May 12th 1875

My dear Maria

I enclose the 2d half of £5 note No. E 36215
& have great pleasure in sending it to you, so you must
get up another bit of business & do your work—
We have got fine weather at last & I am able
to paint - I am doing a picture of Keats Isabella
& the pot of Basil, which costs me great care
but as I have my old patience & perseverance
so I am making progress to the conclusion
Some little weakness consequent on the change of
season is now leaving me & I anticipate the
best with delight & my sojourn in Rome — I
am still as nervous & slightest thing upsets me
but otherwise I enjoy good health & May call me
"Evergreen" for I have not yet even a wrinkle
but I am obliged to be so careful & so fortunate
that my painting is almost a repose & save
I dont please myself which is rather often, I am
cast down — Now my scribble must be short as I
have many engagements Your loving brother Joe

done a bit little - Now the heat is come I take my "40 winks" after dinner & cannot do without it, for the day is such a length from 6 o'clock in the morn. that the nap is a nice treat - 'Tis well that I have an occupation for I see that idle people mope in the summer

Leave me my painting

of the strawberrys there seems no end Apricots, cherries particularly a little black one & now Figs & Peaches are just peeping The vegetation this year is splendid on account of the rain; but the rain is causing illness but there is no fear of inundation of the Tiber I see no reason why Keats letter should be a secret, my Walter tears at his affairs Now I hope this will find you in comfort & without the easterly wind

Your loving brother Joe